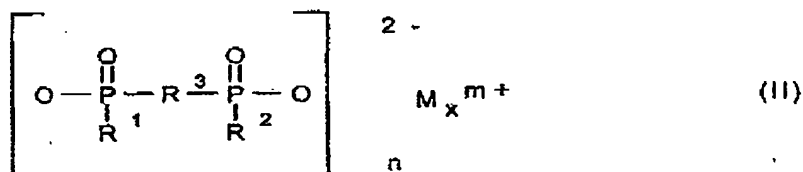
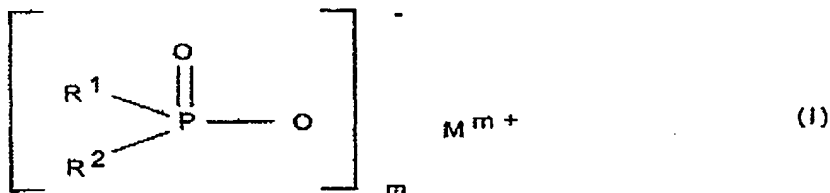


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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition comprising at least one thermosetting resin, a flame retardant from 0.1 to 30 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a polymer of the phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a polymer of the diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and mixtures thereof,



where

R^1, R^2 are identical or different and are C_4 - C_6 alkyl, linear or branched, or aryl; methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, phenyl or mixtures thereof,

R^3 is C_1 - C_{10} -alkylene, linear or branched, C_6 - C_{10} -arylene, -alkylarylene or -arylalkylene;

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M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4; and

x is from 1 to 4,

and at least one first synergistic component in an amount of from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one synergistic compound is an selected from the group consisting of organic and inorganic phosphorus compounds compound, and at least one second synergistic component in an amount from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the at least one second synergistic component is a nitrogen compound, wherein the organic phosphorus compound is selected from the group consisting of triethyl phosphate, triaryl phosphates, tetraphenyl resorcinoldiphosphate, melamine phosphate, dimethyl methylphosphonate and polymers thereof with phosphorus pentoxide, phosphonate ester, (5-ethyl-2-methyl-dioxaphosphorinan-5-yl)methyl methyl methanephosphonate, phosphoric ester, pyrophosphoric ester, alkylphosphinic acids and oxalkylated derivatives thereof, and wherein the nitrogen compound is selected from the group consisting of melamine, melamine derivates of cyanuric acid, melamine derivatives of isocyanuric acid, melamine salts, melamine polyphosphate, melamine diphosphate, dicyandiamide, a guanidine compound, and condensation products of ethyleneurea and formaldehyde or ammonium polyphosphate.

2. (Cancelled)

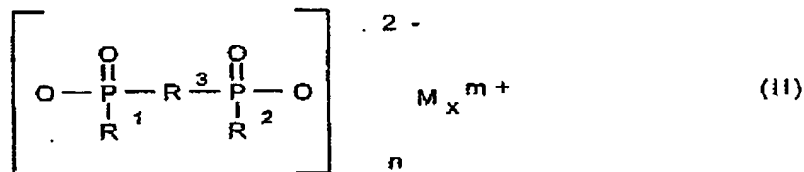
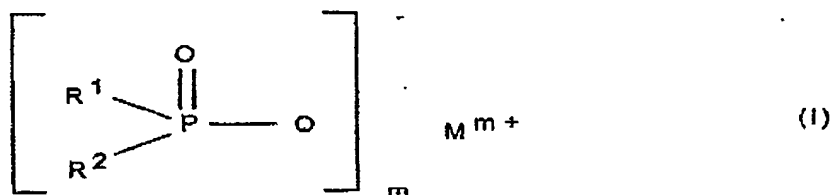
3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Previously Presented) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene or n-dodecylene.
5. (Previously Presented) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylene or naphthylene.
6. (Previously Presented) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene or tert-butyl-naphthylene.
7. (Previously Presented) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^3 is phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene or phenylbutylene.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, comprising from 1 to 15 parts by weight of the flame retardant, from 1 to 20 parts by weight of the at least one first synergistic component, ~~wherein the at least one first synergistic component is an organic phosphorus compound~~, and from 1 to 20 parts by weight of the nitrogen compound, per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition.
10. through 14. (Cancelled)

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15. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition comprising a flame retardant selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a polymer of the phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a polymer of the diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and mixtures thereof.



where

R¹, R² are identical or different and are C₁-C₈-alkyl, linear or branched, or aryl;

R³ is C₁-C₁₀-alkylene, linear or branched, C₆-C₁₀-arylene, -alkylarylene or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4; and

x is from 1 to 4.

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and at least one first synergistic component selected from the group consisting of organic and inorganic phosphorus compounds, and at least one second synergistic component, wherein the at least one second synergistic component is a nitrogen compound~~A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, and~~ further comprising at least one carbodiimide.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A flame-retardant thermoset composition article as claimed in claim 1, wherein the~~comprising a thermoset composition as claimed in claim 1, and wherein the thermoset article is selected from the group consisting of a molding composition, a coating and a laminate made from thermoset resins.

17. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the at least one thermoset resins are resin is an unsaturated polyester resins resin or epoxy resins resin.

18. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with the flame retardant, the at least one first synergistic component and the at least one second synergistic component to form a mixture, and wet-pressing the mixture at a pressure of from 3 to 10 bar and at a temperature of from 20 to 60°C.

19. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with the flame retardant, the at least one first synergistic component, and the at least one second synergistic component to form a mixture, and wet-pressing the mixture at a pressure of from 3 to 10 bar and at a temperature of from 80 to 150°C.

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20. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in claim 1, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with the flame retardant, at least one first synergistic component, and at least one second synergistic component to form a mixture, and processing the mixture at a pressure of from 50 to 150 bar and at a temperature of from 140 to 160°C to give prepregs.

21. (Currently Amended) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 44_1, wherein the melamine salt is melamine phosphate.

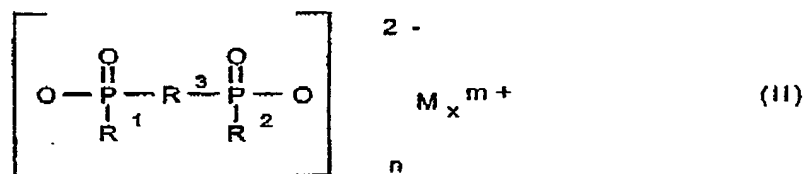
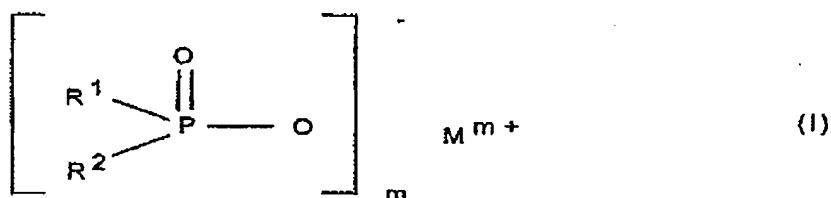
22. (Currently Amended) A flame retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 44_1, wherein the guanidine compound is selected from the group consisting of guanidine carbonate, guanidine phosphate and guanidine sulfate.

23. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the wet pressing step further comprises cold pressing.

24. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the wet pressing step further comprises warm or hot pressing.

25. (New) A flame-retardant thermoset composition comprising at least one thermosetting resin, a flame retardant 0.1 to 30 parts by weight of the thermoset composition, wherein the flame retardant is selected from the group consisting of a phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a diphosphinic salt of the formula (II), a polymer of the phosphinic salt of the formula (I), a polymer of the diphosphinic salt of the formula (II) and mixtures thereof,

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where

R^1, R^2 are identical or different and are methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, phenyl or mixtures thereof;

R^3 is C_1 - C_{10} -alkylene, linear or branched, C_6 - C_{10} -arylene, -alkylarylene or -arylalkylene;

M is Mg, Ca, Al, Sb, Sn, Ge, Ti, Zn, Fe, Zr, Ce, Bi, Sr, Mn, Li, Na, K or a protonated nitrogen base;

m is from 1 to 4;

n is from 1 to 4; and

x is from 1 to 4,

at least one first synergistic component in an amount of from 0.1 to 100 parts by weight of the thermosetting composition, wherein the first synergistic component is an inorganic phosphorus compound selected from the group consisting of red phosphorus, ammonium phosphate and melamine polyphosphate, and at least one second synergistic component, wherein the at least one second synergistic

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component is a nitrogen compound selected from the group consisting of the melamine, melamine derivatives of cyanuric acid, melamine derivatives of isocyanuric acid, melamine salts, melamine polyphosphate or melamine diphosphate, dicyandiamide, a guanidine compound, and condensation products of ethyleneurea and formaldehyde, or ammonium polyphosphate.

26. (New) The flame retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein the melamine salt is melamine phosphate.

27. (New) The flame retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein the guanidine compound, is guanidine carbonate, guanidine phosphate or guanidine sulfate.

28. (New) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein R^3 is methylene, ethylene, n-propylene, isopropylene, n-butylene, tert-butylene, n-pentylene, n-octylene or n-dodecylene.

29. (New) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein R^3 is phenylene or naphthylene.

30. (New) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein R^3 is methylphenylene, ethylphenylene, tert-butylphenylene, methylnaphthylene, ethylnaphthylene or tert-butyl naphthylene.

31. (New) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein R^3 is phenylmethylene, phenylethylene, phenylpropylene or phenylbutylene.

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32. (New) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 25, comprising from 1 to 15 parts by weight of the flame retardant, from 1 to 20 parts by weight of the at least one first synergistic component, and from 1 to 20 parts by weight of the nitrogen compound, per 100 parts by weight of the thermoset composition.

33. (New) A flame-retardant thermoset article, comprising a thermoset composition as claimed in claim 25, and wherein the thermoset article is selected from the group consisting of a molding composition, a coating and a laminate made from thermoset resins.

34. (New) A flame-retardant thermoset composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the at least one thermoset resin is an unsaturated polyester resin or epoxy resin .

35. (New) A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in claim 25, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with the flame retardant, the at least one first synergistic component and the at least one second synergistic component to form a mixture, and wet-pressing the mixture at a pressure of from 3 to 10 bar and at a temperature of from 20 to 60°C.

36. (New) A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in claim 25, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with the flame retardant, the at least one first synergistic component, and the at least one second synergistic component to form a mixture, and wet-pressing the mixture at a pressure of from 3 to 10 bar and at a temperature of from 80 to 150°C.

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37. (New) A process for preparing flame-retardant thermoset compositions as claimed in claim 25, comprising the steps of mixing a thermoset resin with the flame retardant, at least one first synergistic component, and at least one second synergistic component to form a mixture, and processing the mixture at a pressure of from 50 to 150 bar and at a temperature of from 140 to 160°C to give preregs.

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